MW replacement unit was approved in 1981-82, and a proposal from Maharashtra for installation of a 500 MW unit to replace old units was approved in 1984-85. The unit in Gujarat has been commissioned while the unit in Maharashtra is under installation.

Invitation to Indian engineers working in the oil sector at Houston

740. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some 500 Indian engineers working in the oil sector at Houston, the hub of the US oil industry, have been invited by the Government of India to participate in off-shore oil exploration in India;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what has been their response to the said invitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Performance of ONGC

741. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the Indian Express of the 30th May, 1986 to the effect that Government's review of the performance of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has revealed shortfall in the utilisation of Plan outlay for exploratory and development drilling during the first year of the Seventh Plan;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are as follows:

Item	Budget Estimates	Actuals
(i) Plan Outlay (Rs./crores)	2250	2103
(ii) Exploratory Drilling (thousand metres) .	351·0	294·5
(iii) Development Drilling (thousand metres) .	370·9	295·6
(iv) Crude production (million tonnes) .	27·11	27·51

(c) Some of the steps taken are:

(i) Closer monitoring of supplies by Indian Public Sector Companies.

(ii) Efforts for expediting investment approvals.

(iii) Scrutiny of drilling practices for increased productivity.